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Avoid Fertilizer Injury

Improper placement of fertilizer often will injure tobacco plants, warns G. R. Mathews, associate agronomist at VPI.

Mathews says roots of newly set plants often are injured by being placed in direct contact with the fertilizer. The plants may be killed, or may grow off slowly resulting in an uneven crop. The injury also may increase the number of replantings. Replants are usually of low quality and small; and the plants next to the replants often get too big and rough.

Here are some tips from Mathews on reducing fertilizer injury:

Place fertilizer in two bands 7 inches apart and just below the roots of the plants. However, few growers have equipment to do this.

Mix fertilizer in a furrow and listing. A wide single shovel plow is recommended.

Place fertilizer deep enough so roots of newly set plants will be just above the fertilizer. This is important for the growers who use the type of distributor that places the fertilizer in a single band and lists all in one operation. When this type of equipment is used, lay off the row with a wide single shovel.

Make a split application of fertilizer. Apply half in the row and the rest as a side application not later than the first cultivation.

Mathews also has some advice on preparing land. He says tobacco land should be thoroughly conditioned by disking and harrowing just before bedding. This will destroy the weeds and eliminate clods. Tobacco land which has not been properly prepared usually has more grass and weeds, and it is usually harder to get a good stand. Cut worms and other insects often are more troublesome when the soil has not been well prepared.

Since tobacco has a tendency to grow easily, lay off the rows so that each row has a gradual slope. Under most conditions a grade of 6 inches per 100 feet is enough.

Much fine tobacco soil in Piedmont Virginia has been lost because tobacco has been planted in straight rows, with a much steeper grade or "fall" than is needed to provide adequate drainage. It is impossible to produce high yields of good tobacco when most of the top soil is gone. Most tobacco fields in Piedmont Virginia need strip cropping or terraces, plus contour cultivation.

SPRAYS ADVISED FOR RASPBERRIES AND GRAPES

Raspberries and grapes should be sprayed when new growth appears, to prevent destruction of the foliage by insects and diseases, says J. M. Amos, insect and disease specialist at VPI. The first spray for these home fruits should be applied about one week before the blossoms open. On grapes, the spray should be repeated immediately after blooming is over. On raspberries repeat the spray just after harvest. Do not spray raspberries while the fruit is forming. To insure worm-free grapes, spray again just before the berries touch in the cluster. Use DDT and a ferben fungicide or bordeaux mixture.

Amos says controlling insects and diseases early in the season will reduce the difficulty with pests later in the year.

NURSES RESPOND TO FLOOD RELIEF CALL

As muddy floodwaters swept through towns in ten states of the Midwest, nurses were quick to offer their services to help care for the thousands made homeless. As of April 15 more than 250 nurses, including 18 student nurses, had volunteered to help staff the 72 shelters that had been established by the American Red Cross to provide temporary living quarters for evacuees.

The shelters were being staffed with medical and nursing services personnel on a round-the-clock basis, with volunteer nurses working day and night on four-hour shifts. Sixteen members of the Red Cross nursing staff were giving assistance to volunteers.

Lovett scores proposed cuts in budget.

SOIL TESTING FACILITIES USED BY FARMERS

More Virginia farmers are taking advantage of the soil-testing facilities at VPI than ever before, says W. W. Lewis, agronomist, VPI Agricultural Extension Service.

He says over 14,600 soil samples have been run in the laboratory in the agronomy department at the college during the first four months of 1952.

A soil test will give the pH of the soil, showing how much lime, if any, is needed for a particular crop; and also will give the fertility level of other important plant foods such as phosphate and potash.

"It's good common sense to test soils," Lewis says. "By testing farmers will know how much lime is needed, and will have an indication of the right analysis fertilizer to use."

May, June, and July usually are slack months in soil testing laboratories, and farmers can be assured of quicker service than during other months of the year. Also, this is the proper time to send in samples from land where pastures and alfalfa are to be seeded this fall. It is advisable to use lime several months ahead of seeding time on land which tests low in pH.

Farmers can get soil record sheets with instructions on taking samples, soil boxes, and shipping cartons from county agents or other agricultural workers in the county.

FARMER'S FIELD DAY PLANNED MAY 22

Farmers will have a chance to view research underway at the Middlebrg branch of the VPI Agricultural Experiment Station at a field day May 22.

Professional workers will be on hand to explain and discuss various experiments. The tour of the station will be from 1 P. M. to 3:30 P. M.

Arlington board lets contract for new school.

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CONTROL AIDS FOR STRAWBERRY PLANTS

Spray or dust now to control spittlebugs and other pests in strawberry plantins. John M. Amos, insect and disease specialist at VPI, says spittlebugs are numerous in commercial plantings, and for best results, a spray or dust should be applied at once.

Lindane, chlordane, DDT, or methoxychlor is suggested for control of the various strawberry pests, such as millipedes, plant bugs, and spittlebugs. If the material is applied now before the fruit forms, there is no danger of harmful residue on the fruit at harvest.

Blackberry growers also are advised to spray their plantations to control plant bugs which feed on the buds and cause the fruit to be deformed.

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You have doubtless observed the new addition to the old banking quarters, which is only part of the entire program of improvement and modernization.

Within the course of the next several weeks the present banking quarters will undergo drastic changes, resulting in lowering the floor to the street level and a complete rearrangement of the interior with the installation of new modern low type fixtures.

Increased volume of business for which we are deeply grateful prompted us to undertake the program, and while it is in progress it will necessarily inconvenience our customers. We sincerely hope upon its completion that we may serve you with increased efficiency and that all of us will enjoy the modernized quarters to the fullest extent.

Please bear with us while the work is in progress and if the present building does notlook like business as usual—

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Appomattox, Va.

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W SECTION OF BLUE
GE PARWAY OPEN
ford, May 7.—Another section
of Blue Ridge Parkway in Vir-
has now been completed, mak-
ally accessible one of the most
and unique scenic attrac-
in the state of Virginia—the
of Otter. This section of the
ay completed in 1951, con-
Route 460 about 10 miles
Roanoke with Route 501, a
ne west of Big Island and
onderful mountain scenery
motorist according to the
Commission on Conservation
Development. This section of
a goes right by the Peaks of

e twin mountains have been
and visited for a long time
re the Revolutionary War—
way changes have taken place
days when wealthy Vir-
anters came with their fam-
illed to the highest rock of
Top. Then there was only a
rocky dirt road leading from
d to Buchanan, bearing little
lance to the present hard-
and routes which intersect
he parkway at the Peaks of

nd the base of the Peaks,
ence was an Indian camping
, is now a large picnic area
ed by the National Park
e. The mountain itself has
d since the old days when
desirous of seeing the
aking view from Sharp Top
various shaped boulder for-
s that form the crown of the
ou had to walk to the top.
scenic hub goes up the moun-
the hour and at the bus sta-
a sandwich shop with a pleas-
rface for those travelers who
rest and refreshments. On top
mountain, stone steps have
ected to three levels with
ide so that the visitor may
easy access to the view in
direction.

BACCO SPACING
VICE GIVEN

ou are planting broad-leaf va-
of tobacco, space rows four
part and plants 20 to 24 in-
part in the row.

e advice is backed up by re-
of research at the Chatham
ch of VPI agricultural Experi-
Station. Tests there also indi-
that it may pay growers to space
ants 18 to 20 inches
in the rows.
erally tobacco spaced close
cropped will produce higher
ant of leaf suitable for use in
ette. Such tobacco usually is
h in nicotine and higher in
than are leaves from plants
wider spacing. Low nicotine
high sugar content are charac-
ics wanted by cigarette manu-
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The Bible Speaks

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:8-11; Mark 2:23—3:6; Luke 4:16-30; 13:10-17.
DEVOTIONAL READING: Psalm 84.

Whose Sunday?

Lesson for May 11, 1952

A newspaper column is entitled as "My Day;" not such a conceited title as you might think at first glance. Whose day is this, anyway? Yours, of course. What? you ask in surprise. My day? I have to work from morning to night in the house or on the farm or in the schoolroom or in the office or on the road sometimes. My day, indeed! I'd like to get ten minutes of it for myself if I could.

Dr. Foreman

Now wait a minute. Suppose you do have only ten minutes worth. What do you do with part of the day?

But that's not the whole story, not the whole question. The day is more yours than you think. For you can bring, and you do bring, to every day you live, a certain mood, an intention, a spirit. The same scene in sunlight and under heavy clouds is quite different. The same person in sickness and in health is not one but two people.

* * *

How Will You Feel on Monday?

THERE is one day of the week which, as Christians believe, is God's special gift to man. It is for everybody's benefit.

Let us suppose there is a town where everybody works, one way or another, for one man, spending most of their time making one man rich. Six days a week, that is; then comes Sunday and nobody works. This is everybody's day, not the boss's day.

Such a town would be a little hard to find; but even there everybody does have one day.

Jesus said, The Sabbath is made for man. Not for preachers, not for a favored few, not even for Jews and Christians only: but for man. The Jewish Sabbath of which Jesus spoke has its successor in the Christian Sunday. It is quite true that Christians appreciate the day more than atheists; but God made Sunday for man just as he sends rain and sunshine on one and all.

Our forefathers sometimes got hold of Sunday by the wrong handle, just as the Pharisees did in their time, with the Sabbath. They talked a good deal about not "breaking" the Sabbath as if it were a very fragile something to be kept under glass and never touched.

No, Jesus meant that the day is to be used; and the purpose of it is to keep man from being broken.

But this is still not all of it. This blessed day is not simply a day which we rise back, so to speak, to our normal level after the weariness of the week has dragged us down. It should be, and it can be when wisely used, a day on which we can grow, mentally, socially, spiritually.

Do you need a rule or guide on how best to spend your Sundays? Then ask yourself this question: How do I feel Monday mornings? I should be a better person Monday morning than I was on Saturday night. The best way to spend Sunday is to spend it in such a way that I shall begin next week a little better than I began last.

* * *

The Lord's Day

WHOSE day is it? Jesus said something else about it: The Son of Man (by this he always meant himself) is Lord of the Sabbath. So the Christian church has called it the Lord's Day ever since.

Now this particular Sunday in May happens to be "Mother's Day" in the United States, and every one can understand that there are good ways and poor ways to celebrate Mother's Day. You write your mother or visit her, or if she is gone from this earth you think about her, you spend the day doing the kind of things that she would enjoy doing with you.

So on the Lord's Day you celebrate in Christ's honor.

* * *

The Day of God

WE must also remember that this is God's Day, the "Sabbath of the Lord thy God." It is his because he gave it; his because it is dedicated to him.

It is for man, yet; but man is never fully man so long as he leaves God out. Man without God is a ship without water, a bird without air, an earth without the sun. Man needs God; and Sunday is the golden day for finding him.

This is the day when we have the most time for reading and hearing and thinking about God's Word; a day when we have greater freedom to do something in his service; a day when the loneliest soul may find the heavenly Friend.

(Copyright 1951 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Released by WNU Features.)

Grass Silage Is Good Feed

Reduce harvest and storage losses, particularly when the weather is unfavorable for haying, by making silage from part of the hay crop.

The best grass silage will come from the crop that makes the best hay, G. R. Epperson, associate agronomist at VPI, says. Alfalfa, clovers, grass and legume mixtures, and excess pasture are aomng crops suitable for silage.

Grass or legume silage is higher in protein, calcium, and carotene than corn or sorghum silage. The high content means you can reduce the protein in grain mixtures fed to stock getting grass silage, thus reducing feed costs.

One of the requirements is a good, tight, strong silo. If your silo is not well reinforced, put extra hoops around the lower part to strengthen the walls.

To estimate yields of silage for the different crops, multiply the expected yield in nay by three. For instance, if an alfalfa field would produce 4 tons of hay per acre during the year, it would furnish about 12 tons of silage.

There are two ways to preserve grass silage. One is to wilt the material before it is put in the silo, to reduce the moisture to 65 to 58 per cent. The length of time it will take varies with the crop, its maturity, the dampness of the ground, and the weather. The other is preservatives, added to grass silage to improve the quality. Molasses, corn and cob-meal, and phosphorics acid are most commonly used.

Be sure to top off the silage with at least two feet of heavy green material. Tramp the top layer thoroughly, especially around the wall. For five to seven days after filling, tramp silage daily, for at least 10 minutes, keeping it packed tightly against the wall.

A water-seal silo gasket is available on the market, and has much the same effect on a silo as a top does on a glass jar. It prevents any spoilage, and can be used on any circular silo.

Party of Adenauer is divided on Western Pact.

Senators report that military aid lags.

British jet airlines sets new mark in flight to South Africa.

NEW CORN CROP MAY BRING BETTER HOG - CORN RATIO

Any substancial improvement in the hog-corn ratio, from the hog feeders' standpoint, probably will have to wait on the new corn crop.

That is the belief of Dr. J. L. Maxton, marketing specialist at VPI, who says with increased acreage and good corn yields in 1952, the hog-corn price ratio could be very favorable to hog feeders in the winter of 1952-53.

Meanwhile, here is how the economist sizes up the situation:

Corn supplies have been reduced.

Hog marketings have increased. The export demand for lard fell off at a time when supplies were large. None of these factors is likely to change before midsummer. At that time new corn crop prospects will become a factor. Hog prices may strengthen as liquidation ceases. But corn prices are just as likely to strengthen as the result of reduced supplies.

However, Dr. Maxton says there is the possibility of further substancial imports of feed grains from Canada, particularly the large volume of wheat which stool in Canadian fields over winter.

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Mothers Haven't Changed!

Some misinformed people call her a "modern mother." That's because she wears her hair differently—she dresses with a fashionable accent—and she feeds her baby all those "unheard of" things that doctors *today* recommend.

But she's really an old-fashioned mother. She loves her child with old-fashioned devotion . . . sacrifices with old-fashioned unselfishness . . . dreams of giving him "advantages" she never had . . . boasts of his "brightness" . . . frets about his contrariness . . . worries about his pains . . . laughs delightedly at his "cuteness."

Like so many mothers before her, she prays that her child may grow into noble manhood . . . yet, sometimes, she wishes he could always stay just as he is today.

But her little boy is growing up. And as he grows, mother will find the Church her faithful ally: developing her child's character, deepening his faith in God, strengthening his convictions of right and wrong. From the Cradle Roll to the Men's Bible Class her son will gain in Sunday School and Church the spiritual riches that mothers — yesterday and today — have earnestly sought for their children.

THE CHURCH FOR ALL . . . ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Firm to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Sunday . . . . . I Corinthians 13:1-8
Monday . . . . . Luke 1:46-55
Tuesday . . . . . Mark 3:31-35
Wednesday . . . . . John 19:25-27
Friday . . . . . Matthew 20:20-28
Saturday . . . . . I Samuel 2:18-20
. . . . . Proverbs 31:25-31

For schedule of yearly readings, write American Tract Society, 825 Park Ave., N. Y. 28, N. Y.

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